

13 wherein said opening of said resilient member is configured to engage said
14 outer surface of said stud when said resilient member is relaxed, thereby providing
15 engagement between said structures; and

16 wherein said opening of said resilient member is configured to expand to
17 release said outer surface of said stud upon application of an opposite force parallel to
18 said axis, thereby releasing said structures.

1 14. (Three times Amended) A system for providing releasable engagement
2 between two structures and for maintaining a predetermined gap between said
3 structures, said system comprising:

4 a substantially cylindrical stud mounted on one of said structures and
5 extending outwardly therefrom along an axis, said stud having a groove extending
6 about a periphery of said stud and defining a surface at an angle to said axis of said
7 stud; and

8 a torroidal radial spring restrained adjacent a surface of the other one of said
9 structures, said radial spring having an outer surface contacting said surface of said
10 other one of said structures to prevent movement of said outer surface radially
11 outwardly with respect to said axis of said stud, said radial spring also having an inner
12 surface movable radially outwardly with respect to said axis of said stud from a
13 relaxed position to an expanded position;

14 said inner surface of said radial spring defining an inner diameter smaller than
15 the maximum diameter of said stud when said radial spring is in said relaxed position,
16 and said inner surface being configured to resiliently contact said stud to expand
17 radially outwardly to said expanded position to permit passage of said stud when an
18 axial force is applied to said stud or said radial spring biasing said first and second
19 structures apart, said radial spring being configured to releasably engage said groove
20 of said stud when said radial spring is in said relaxed position, thereby providing
21 releasable engagement between said structures, and thereby maintaining said
22 predetermined gap between said structures.

CR 1 15. (Twice Amended) The system as recited in claim 14, one of said structures
2 comprising a frame and the other of said structures comprising a door, said stud
3 being mounted on said frame and said radial spring being mounted on said door.

1 22. (Twice Amended) A latching assembly for providing releasable engagement
2 between two structures, said latching assembly comprising:

3 a stud extending outwardly from one of said structures along an axis, said stud
4 having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis; and

5 a resilient member positioned adjacent a surface of the other one of said
6 structures, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal configuration, an
7 outer surface of said resilient member contacting said surface of said other one of said
8 structures to prevent movement of said outer surface of said resilient member radially
9 outwardly, an inner surface of said resilient member defining an opening moveable
10 radially outwardly;

11 said resilient member having a relaxed position wherein said opening is
12 smaller than said stud to releasably engage said outer surface of said stud, and said
13 resilient member having an expanded position wherein said opening is sized to permit
14 passage of said stud.

1 23. (Twice Amended) An enclosure latching system for providing releasable
2 engagement between a door and an enclosure, said latching system comprising:

3 a stud extending outwardly from one of said door and said enclosure along an
4 axis, said stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis; and

5 a resilient spring member secured in a spring housing adjacent a surface of the
6 other one of said door and said enclosure, said resilient member having:

7 a substantially torroidal configuration,

8 an outer surface constrained by contacting said surface of said other
9 one of said door and said enclosure to prevent movement of said outer
10 surface of said resilient member radially outward, and

11 an inner surface moveable radially outward;

12 said torroidal configuration of said resilient member defining an opening
13 resiliently expandable from a relaxed state smaller than said stud radially outward to
14 an expanded state to permit passage of said stud, said resilient member being
15 configured to releasably engage said surface of said stud in said relaxed state,
16 thereby providing releasable engagement between said door and said enclosure.

17 24. (Amended) A latching system for releasably engaging a door to a frame
18 comprising:

19 a stud mounted on one of said door and said frame and having an axis
20 and a surface, at least a portion of said surface being angled with respect to said
21 axis of said stud; and

22 a coiled spring mounted in a housing on the other one of said door and
23 said frame and having an axis arranged in a circle to form a torroidal
24 configuration and an outer surface constrained by contacting said housing to
25 prevent movement of said outer surface of said resilient member radially
26 outward, said torroidal configuration of said spring defining an opening which is
27 exposed when said door is open and is expandable by introduction of said stud
28 therein to allow the stud to pass through said opening and which relaxes to
29 releasably engage said angled surface of said stud.

1 25. (Amended) A door assembly comprising:

2 a frame;

3 a door mounted for movement with respect to said frame;

4 a stud extending from one of said frame and said door along an axis, said
5 stud having an outer surface oriented at an angle to said axis;

6 a resilient member retained adjacent a surface of the other one of said
7 frame and said door, said resilient member having a substantially torroidal
8 configuration defining an outer surface and an opening;

9 said opening of said resilient member being resiliently expandable from a
10 relaxed diameter smaller than said stud to an expanded diameter sufficient to
11 permit passage of said stud by application of a force along said axis biasing said
12 frame and said door together;

13 said outer surface of said resilient member being in contact with said
14 surface of said other one of said frame and said door, said surface being
15 positioned to constrain said outer surface of said resilient member and prevent
16 movement of said outer surface of said resilient member radially outwardly;

17 wherein when said door is closed with respect to said frame, said resilient
18 member releasably engages said outer surface of said stud, thereby providing
19 releasable engagement between said door and said frame.

Please add claim 26 as follows:

1 26. (Newly Added) A system for providing releasable engagement between two
2 structures, said system comprising:

3 a stud operatively connected to a first one of said structures;

4 a torroidal spring operatively connected to a second one of said
5 structures; and

6 means for releasably engaging and disengaging said stud and said
7 torroidal spring by application of forces parallel to an axis of said stud.

Please cancel claims 4 and 19.